

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When striketrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 13 and 15-17 in accordance with the following:

1-12. (Cancelled).

13. (currently amended) An e-mail client apparatus for transmitting and receiving e-mail messages, comprising:

a sorting unit which sorts e-mail messages into a hierarchical structure according to sender addresses each comprising a plurality of labels representing different levels of domain names, ~~referring where the first to the label representing~~ refers to a lowest level sub-domain and the last label refers to a top-level domain, and the sorting unit follows the hierarchical structure of the domain name by referring to the labels in reverse order that the labels appear in the sender address; and

a list displaying unit which displays a list comprising indicia of the labels of the sender addresses arranged in tree form, together with titles of the e-mail messages corresponding to the sender addresses.

14. (previously presented) The e-mail client apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said list displaying unit places the label representing the top-level domain as a root node of the tree form and then attaches thereto the other labels representing successively lower levels as branch nodes.

15. (currently amended) A method for displaying e-mail messages, comprising:

sorting e-mail messages into a hierarchical structure according to sender addresses each comprising a plurality of labels representing different levels of domain names, ~~referring where the first to the label representing~~ refers to a lowest level sub-domain and the last label refers to a top-level domain, and the sorting unit follows the hierarchical structure of the domain name by referring to the labels in reverse order that the labels appear in the sender address; and

displaying a list comprising indicia of the labels of the sender addresses arranged in tree form, together with titles of the e-mail messages corresponding to the sender addresses.

16. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ storing an e-mail client program for displaying e-mail messages that, when executed the e-mail client program causing by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method comprising to function as:

a sorting unit which sorts e-mail messages into a hierarchical structure according to sender addresses each comprising a plurality of labels representing different levels of domain names, referring where the first to the label representing refers to a lowest level sub-domain and the last label refers to a top-level domain, and the sorting unit follows the hierarchical structure of the domain name by referring to the labels in reverse order that the labels appear in the sender address; and

a list displaying unit which displays a list comprising indicia of the labels of the sender addresses arranged in tree form, together with titles of the e-mail messages corresponding to the sender addresses.

17. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ storing an e-mail client program for displaying e-mail messages that, when executed the e-mail client program causing by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method comprising to function as:

~~sorting unit which sorts~~ e-mail messages into a hierarchical structure according to a user selectable parent-child attribute and the sender address, each comprising a plurality of labels representing different levels of domain names, referring where the first to the label representing refers to a lowest level sub-domain and the last label refers to a top-level domain, and the sorting unit follows the hierarchical structure of the domain name by referring to the labels in reverse order that the labels appear in the sender address; and a list

~~displaying unit which displays~~ a list comprising indicia of the labels of the sender addresses arranged in tree form, together with titles of the e-mail messages corresponding to the sender addresses.